

Flood Control District of Maricopa County
Meteorological Services Program (MSP)

---- AFTERNOON ----

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Date: Saturday, September 27, 2014
Time: 8:00 AM MST
Forecaster: Henz, D.

Synopsis:

An active weather day and potentially hazardous situation is shaping up across portions of AZ today as a strong upper level disturbance moves into the region. Morning observations place center of the disturbance across central CA with an attendant cold front draped south across the lower CO River Valley. Meanwhile, widespread showers and t-storms are on-going across northwest AZ along the area of strongest forced ascent and a pre-dawn area of storms which moved over the east Valley is moving northeast of the county. Strong southerly flow out ahead of the front, has brought ample deep layer moisture into the southern half of the state. The bulk of this system is forecast to move east across northern AZ today bringing a focused band of t-storms along a west to east moving cold front before moving east of the region later tonight. All modes of severe weather will be possible across central and southcentral AZ today including heavy rain leading to flash flooding, damaging winds, large hail, and even an isolated tornado threat.

For today plan on mostly sunny skies for the next few hours before increasing cloudiness and developing t-storms late morning/early afternoon continuing into this evening. Daytime temperatures should only warm into the upper 80s to low 90s around the Valley. Breezy southerly winds in the 10-20mph range are expected to increase throughout the day with localized damaging gusts (40-50mph range) near any severe storms. Current model guidance shows the leading edge of the cold front moving into western portions of the county in the next several hours before continuing east across the Valley later this afternoon/evening. Current line of thinking is for widespread showers and t-storm development along and out ahead of the front as stronger forcing overspreads the region combined with mid-day heating. Any strong/severe storms today will be capable of heavy rain, hail, and damaging wind gusts. Cell training along the cold front may also lead to multiple rounds of heavy rain over certain locations adding a threat for localized flash flooding. A Flash Flood Watch was issued yesterday, valid today, for northern and eastern portions of County given the potential for higher rainfall totals from orographic enhancement. Conditions will be monitored closely for the remainder of the day and statements will be issued accordingly. Rainfall values below assume a

mix of stronger storms with the potential for storm training, though totals could vary based on storm coverage.

Conditions will begin to quiet down late this evening behind the cold frontal passage with remnant activity limited to the high terrain northeastern Maricopa County. Drier air and clearing conditions will move into the region overnight as the disturbance continues to move east towards the four corners region tomorrow. Plan on mild temperatures Sunday with afternoon highs limited to the upper 80s to low 90s under mostly sunny skies. Storm chances should remain limited to the higher terrain of eastern AZ with quieter weather conditions in and around southcentral AZ.

TABLE 1: Precipitation Forecast by Zone

Forecast Zone	Now-12am Chance of Measureable Rain (%)	Prime Time for Heaviest Rain	Maximum Prime Time Rainfall (inches)	Storms Currently Observed (X)
Gila Bend	70	10am-10pm	1.00"	
Palo Verde	80	10am-10pm	1.50"	
Rainbow Valley	80	10am-10pm	1.50"	
West Valley	80	11am-9pm	1.75"	
Northwest Valley	90	11am-9pm	2.00"	
Upper Centennial	90	9am-8pm	2.00"	
Wickenburg	90	9am-8pm	2.00"	
New River/Cave Cr	90	11am-10pm	2.50"	
Sycamore Creek	90	12pm-11pm	2.50"	
Phoenix North	80	12pm-10pm	2.00"	
Phoenix South	80	12pm-10pm	1.50"	
Scottsdale North	90	12pm-11pm	2.00"	
Scottsdale South	80	12pm-10pm	1.50"	
Southeast Valley	70	12pm-10pm	2.00"	
Lwr. Salt R. Lakes	90	1pm-11pm	2.50"	
Superstition	90	1pm-11pm	2.50"	

LINKS:

[ALERT Data Display \(Google Map\)](#)

[FCD Daily precip. report \(5 AM\)](#)

[Click Here to Report a Flood](#)

[MSP Forecast Zones Map](#)